

# Emergency Response and Recovery

## *Evidence in Action*

### Response to Humanitarian Crises

The Emergency Response and Recovery Branch (ERRB) applies public health and epidemiologic science to reduce the health impact of disasters and emergencies, including complex humanitarian events and to strengthen the recovery of health systems in these settings.

Working in partnership with other U.S. government agencies, United Nations (UN) agencies (UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], UN Children's Fund [UNICEF]), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ERRB coordinates, supervises, and monitors CDC's work in international emergency settings and in refugee or displaced populations. The branch also provides assistance during emergencies focusing on the following:

- Rapid assessments on health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and nutrition
- Public health surveillance and epidemic investigations
- Operational research in emergency and post-emergency settings
- Program development and evaluation
- Post-emergency health systems reconstruction
- Partner capacity building

### Mission

The mission of CDC's Emergency Response and Recovery Branch is to mitigate the impact of disasters, complex humanitarian and other emergencies on populations, and to support the recovery of health systems in these settings.

ERRB staff are currently posted in Haiti, seconded to the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. ERRB staff will be posted in Geneva, Switzerland to work with UN partners. In addition, staff are deployed on short-term assignments to provide support in emergency settings including Jordan, Kenya, and South Sudan.

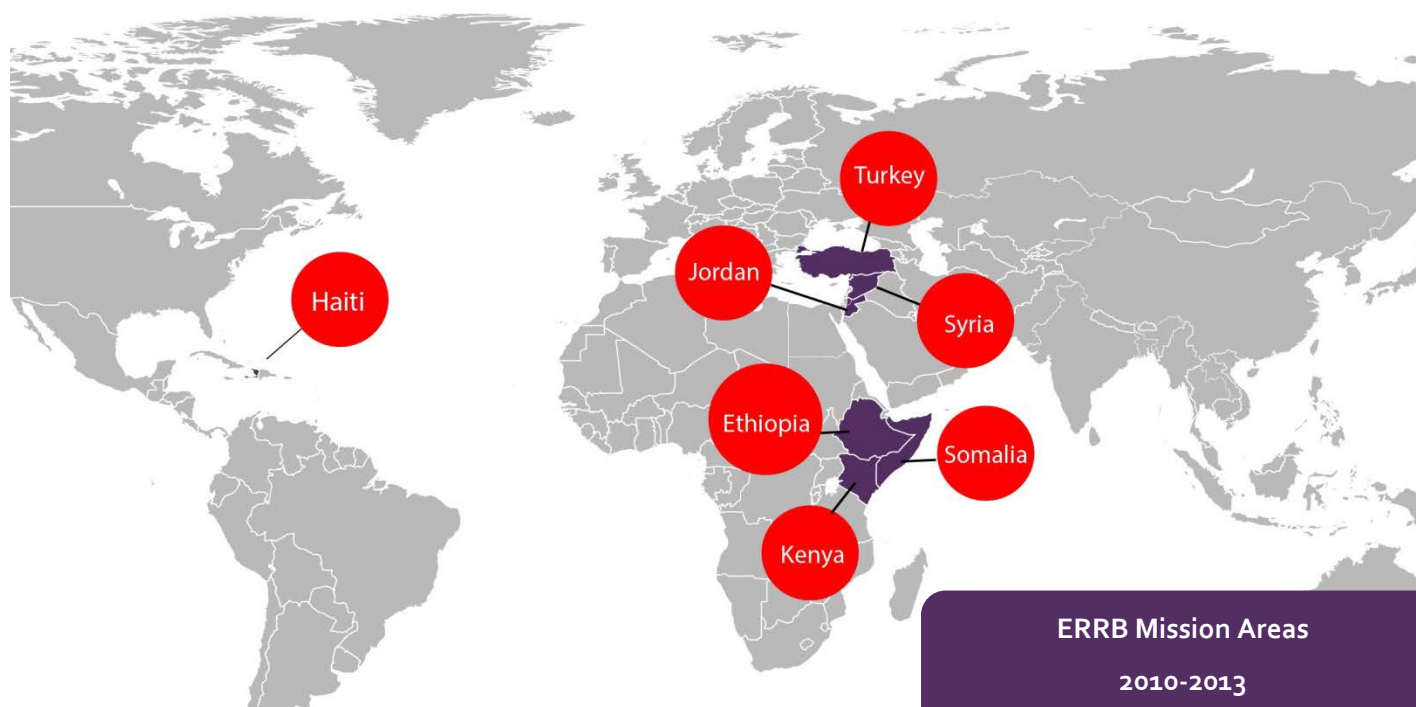
### Impact

**Syria** – ERRB helped establish an early warning alert and response network (EWARN) communicable disease surveillance system for northern Syria and in refugee camps in Jordan. In collaboration with CDC subject matter experts, ERRB continues to provide regional support to UN agencies, including supporting the response to the current polio outbreak. CDC completed an evaluation of a measles vaccination campaign and TB control in refugee camps in Jordan with plans to conduct a similar measles evaluation in Syria.

**Horn of Africa** – Early in the famine crisis in 2011, ERRB provided a scientific basis for the United Nations Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU)-Somalia famine declaration by contributing a methodology for analyzing and assessing data quality to determine the nutritional status of the population. The work helped catalyze the response by the international community. ERRB also supported UNICEF and WHO Somalia with measles interventions and emergency surveillance, respectively, and UNHCR Ethiopia with health coordination.

**Haiti** – ERRB works with the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population to improve public health services in the country, following the 2010 earthquake and cholera epidemic. ERRB is involved in strengthening surveillance for cholera and other diseases, increasing access to safe water and helping to build laboratory capacity.





## Key Partners

### U.S. Government

Department of Defense  
Department of State  
USAID Office of Foreign  
Disaster Assistance

### UN Agencies

United Nations Children's  
Fund  
United Nations High  
Commissioner for Refugees  
United Nations Population  
Fund  
World Food Program  
World Health Organization

### NGOs

Doctors Without Borders  
iMMAP  
International Committee of  
the Red Cross  
International Rescue  
Committee  
Save the Children

### Universities

Columbia University  
Emory University  
London School of Tropical  
Medicine and Hygiene  
Tulane University  
University of Washington

## Accomplishments

Missions to the Horn of Africa in support of  
the famine

41 (2011-2012)

Children vaccinated in Za'atari refugee camp  
in Jordan

>60,000 (2013)

## Future Direction

- Improve the effectiveness of WHO and other partners in responding to the crisis in Syria
- Continue to make measurable progress towards our programmatic goals in Haiti
- Support the Haitian MOH to effectively respond to changes in the course of the cholera epidemic